

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated April 14, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating claims 1-7, 16, and 17 as allowed. Claims 8, 10, 12, and 14-17 are hereby amended. Claim 9 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added. The restriction requirement was withdrawn by the Examiner. Accordingly, claims 1-8 and 10-17 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 8-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as being failed to comply with the enablement requirement. Not necessarily agreeing with the Office Action and for sole purpose of expediting prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 8 and 14 to more clearly define the claimed subject matter and canceled claim 9. Amended claims 8 and 14 are fully supported by the specification as stated in the Office Action at page 2. Claims 10-15 variously depend from claim 8. Applicants have also amended claims 10, 12, and 16-17. These amendment simply clarify the claim language and do not narrow the scope of the claims. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

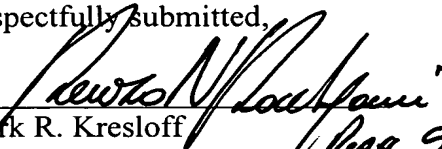
Application No.: 10/517,582

Docket No.: 10404.003.00 US

filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: August 13, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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